THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to raise a Kalinga Regiment in the Defence Forces. The policy of the Government is not to raise any new regiment on the basis of a particular class, creed, community, religion or region, but to have an Army in which all Indians have representation.

Occupation of land by Army

2402. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the army has taken over lands at various places in baramula and Kupwara districts for defence purposes; and

(b) if so, whether Government are also aware that the army neither vacates these lands nor pays any rent?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Apart from Defence acquired land, there are certain pockets of land, which are under occupation of Armed Forces in Baramulla and Kupwara Districts. The occupation Of land by Armed Forces is regularized by way of requisition/hiring and rental compensation is payable for such lands. The rentals for the requisitioned and hired lands are normally being paid when due. In Baramulla district, 2202.381 acres of land (approximately) is under requisition/hiring with Armed Forces for which a sum of Rs. 85,29,783/- has been paid as rentals in the year 2002-2003. Similarly, in Kupwara District, 1011.445 acres of land (approximately) is under requisiton/hiring with Armed Forces for which a sum of Rs. 34,22,120/- has been paid as rentals in the year 2002-2003.

Setting up of a Sainik Bharti board in Aheerwal Region of Haryana

†2403. SHRI D .P. YADAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action has been taken by Government to set up the proposed "Sainik Bharti Board" in the Aheerwal region of Haryana; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.